



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

Z-2021/62441669/33584061 -

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Joint Communication from Special Procedures dated 14 October 2021 (OL TUR 12/2021), has the honour to enclose herewith the observations provided by the relevant Turkish authorities.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 2 December 2021

Encl: As stated.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10

## **OBSERVATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY REGARDING THE COMMUNICATION (OL TUR 12/2021) DATED 14 OCTOBER 2021**

Effective meaningful international cooperation and solidarity has been at the forefront of our efforts against the virus. Individual, piecemeal and national efforts of any state cannot be a remedy for the existing crisis of international structures in the wake of this outbreak.

Turkey fully shares the vision on the need for a coordinated global strategy and intensive cooperation among all countries not only for a swift and effective combat against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also in all future global endeavors for addressing the challenges faced by the humanity.

As a responsible and active member of international Community, Turkey has provided assistance to 160 countries and 12 international organizations in the fight against Covid-19.

At this stage, we need a vaccine solidarity on a global scale to control and defeat the pandemic. So far, we have donated more than 1,5 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to 11 countries in need. Equitable, adequate and affordable access to vaccines is vital. Turkey has already announced that once it develops its own vaccines it will offer them to whole mankind as a global good.

At the UN level, we co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution that called for fair, transparent and equitable access to essential medical supplies and any future vaccines.

While believing that all the means for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the vaccines, should be put in common use of the humanity without a profit seeking approach, it is also necessary to provide an adequate climate for the scientific research and development towards the objective to find safe and reliable remedies to the pandemic. An adequate level of protection for the intellectual property rights, setting a balance between the uninterrupted access to the necessary tools for human health throughout the world and a fair remuneration for the efforts of development of these tools, is one of the conditions to be observed for the sustainability of the global capacity and cooperation to tackle with similar crisis.

We share the WHO's global targets to vaccinate at least 40% of people in all countries by the end of this year and 70% by the middle of 2022. We also agree that equitable access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics, data, technology and basic protection is equally important.

Turkey is ready to assist WHO, to the extent of its capacity and abilities, to reach these targets.

Turkey welcomes discussions at the TRIPS Council, both in formal and informal mode, to scale up the manufacturing of relevant medical products as well as to ensure equitable and timely distribution of these products. There are two main proposals on the table of TRIPS Council.

Despite the fact that the motivations of these two proposals submitted to the TRIPS Council are different in the possible ways to be followed in addressing challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account that they are not necessarily alternatives to each other, proponents of these two main proposals, namely the waiver proposal and the proposal by the EU, seem to agree on

the fact that what we have been living through is not only a health crisis that effects health sector but also has economic and social consequences, which make proper functioning of supply chains for safe, equitable and affordable access to vaccines, tests, treatments and other therapeutics crucial and urgent.

While Turkey believes that the proposed waiver may provide Members an important policy-space on IP-related issues during the fight with the pandemic, further constructive work is needed to bridge the gaps between the proponents and some other countries which voiced their concerns especially on the product scope and termination of the waiver. Thus, Turkey is favorable for all initiatives that aims to promote and facilitate international cooperation in this matter in principle, given the possible extensive impact of the proposed waiver on intellectual property rights, Turkey's assessments on the possible implications of such a waiver are still ongoing.